



HE SAYS "SHUT UP"—Rep. George Mahon (D-Tex.) who said in a House speech Thursday that too many people in government have been talking about matters that should only be discussed behind closed doors. (AP)

Kennedy Welcomes 'Silence'

*Pleased by Plea
In House to Keep
Secrets from Reds*

WASHINGTON (AP)—Rep. George Mahon's plea that public officials keep quiet about American intelligence activities was welcome news to President Kennedy, and many members of Congress agreed that "silence is golden."

The President, it was learned Friday, was immensely pleased when aids showed him news accounts of the Texas Democrat's speech Thursday on the House floor. There was good reason to believe Mr. Kennedy began making plans to grab the ball Mahon tossed into the air.

White House sources said, however, that the congressman acted on his own initiative, that Mr. Kennedy had no foreknowledge of the blistering attack on loose talk.

MAHON, chairman of the House defense appropriations subcommittee, said: "Officials in Moscow, Peking and Havana must applaud our stupidity in announcing publicly facts which they would gladly spend huge sums of money endeavoring to obtain."

He gave no specific examples and said the executive branch and the legislative, Republicans and Democrats alike, "must share the blame" for "making us the laughing stock of the world."

At the same time, Rep. Bob Wilson (R-Calif.) said he had called on Defense Sec. Robert S. McNamara to tell the American people whether Soviet ships recently reported en route to Cuba to remove Russian troops actually were carrying missiles to the island.

Wilson said he asked McNamara in a letter:

"How many ships have actually arrived in Cuban ports ostensibly to return Soviet soldiers? Have our intelligence-gathering services checked the unloading of these vessels to determine whether they carried missiles into Cuba? How many Russians have left Cuba?"

IN AGREEING with Mahon, Senate Democratic leader Mike Mansfield of Montana said: "I feel that there's too much intelligence given out." And Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.) told a reporter: "All should heed the admonition that silence is the golden rule of intelligence."

On the House side, Mahon's assertion that "the present situation is outrageous and intolerable" brought a bipartisan plea to try to stop congressional tongue-wagging.

President Kennedy had at least two reasons for welcoming it:

— Administration officials have repeatedly expressed the view that, because this is a democracy where government secrets are suspect, there is a tendency to make public too much information.

— Any curbing of public discussion of intelligence activities might quiet the controversy about the effectiveness of intelligence operations involving Soviet moves in Cuba.

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